



# ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

(510) 276-4700

[www.oroloma.org](http://www.oroloma.org)

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## Oro Loma Board of Directors Approve Residential Sewer Rate Reduction

On February 20, 2007, the Board approved rescinding a sewer service rate increase that was due to take effect on July 1, 2007, and approved maintaining the residential rate at its then-current rate of \$193 per year.

The Finance and Insurance Committee, at its meeting of April 11, 2008, analyzed the District's cash position and concluded that due to a favorable cash position, and planned reductions in the number of construction projects, the District would be able to lower its residential sewer service rates, and pass the savings on to its customers. The Board discussed the findings of the Finance and Insurance Committee, and made a recommendation to approve the proposed decreased rates at a public hearing that was held June 3, 2008, at 3:00 p.m., at the District offices, in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, which requires the District to hold a public hearing regardless of whether rates are increased or decreased.

The newly-decreased annual residential sewer service rates, effective July 1, 2008, are as follows:

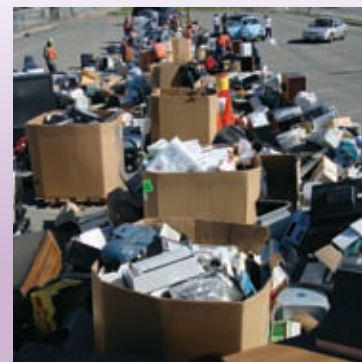
	July 1, 2007	July 1, 2008
Single Family Dwelling	\$193.00	<b>\$178.00</b>
Multiple Family Dwelling	\$178.78	<b>\$178.00</b>
Mobile Homes/House Trailers	\$146.58	<b>\$145.00</b>
Minimum Charge	\$146.58	<b>\$145.00</b>

The estimated annual financial impact of the proposed action on the District's cash position will be a decrease in revenue of \$452,100 per year.

Oro Loma's single family residential sewer rate of \$178.00 per year is the lowest in Alameda County.

## September 2008 E-Waste Event

Over 106,990 pounds of obsolete and unwanted electronic equipment was dropped off at Oro Loma's first e-waste event held on February 9, 2008. Because this event was such a great success, Oro Loma has scheduled a second e-waste event for September 13, 2008 in the Arroyo High School parking lot. This event, like the one in February, will be free and open to everyone who wants to safely and legally dispose of unwanted electronic devices, such as computers, laptops, monitors, TVs, cell phones, disk drives, and printers. Participants do not need to be Oro Loma customers to take advantage of this opportunity. E-waste is considered part of universal waste. Since February 8, 2006 it has been illegal in California to dispose of universal waste in the trash.



*Some of the electronic equipment collected last February in the first Oro Loma e-waste collection event*

## Oro Loma Earth Day 2009 Poster Contest— RECYCLING RULES!

We all know how important recycling is, but did you know that in Oro Loma you can recycle empty aerosol cans, but not Styrofoam cups? That you can recycle plastic bags, but that they must be bundled? Or that green waste is collected every week? Do you know the rules?

The 2009 poster contest marks 15 years of Oro Loma and Waste Management promoting environmental awareness among District students and schools. In those years, we've asked students to see into the future and to explore the past, to investigate all aspects of recycling and to tell us why schools are an important part of the conservation loop. The upcoming contest should be particularly fun and educational. This time, we are asking students to both show us why recycling is important, and what the rules are for recycling in Oro Loma. They (and their parents and teachers) can find out the rules by going to [www.roloma.org](http://www.roloma.org).

Entry forms will be printed in the Oro Loma 2008-2009 calendar, and will be available online and in schools on January 20, 2009. Entries in the 2009 poster contest may be submitted from January 20, 2009 through March 20, 2009.



### Cart Etiquette

When you put your garbage and recycling carts out for pickup, please be sure not to block pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

As a courtesy to your neighbors, please remember to retrieve your trash, recycling, and green waste carts from the curb and return them to a safe location by your house, out of view from the street, after they have been emptied.

## President's Message



Jason Warner, General Manager

In November, 2007, General Manager Mike Cameron informed the Board that he would be retiring from the District at the beginning of May 2008. In December 2007, the Board began working to recruit his replacement. Six months and 45 candidates from around the State later, the Board, after a special closed session meeting held on July 28, 2008, offered the General Manager position to Jason Warner, Oro Loma's District Engineer.

Jason first came to the District in 2004 as a Senior Project Engineer working on the \$34.1 million Treatment Plant Capacity Restoration Project. He left the District in 2005, going back to his previous employer, Delta Diablo Sanitation District, where he was awarded the 2006 Engineering Employee of the Year. He returned to Oro Loma in July 2007 in the position of District Engineer, taking charge of the Engineering Department, which is comprised of three engineers, a construction inspec-

tor, and an engineering technician.

Jason's background includes extensive experience in planning and implementing capital improvement programs up to \$60 million, collection system modeling, construction management, and project management across a wide range of disciplines. He holds a Civil Engineering degree from UC Davis, and is a registered Professional Engineer. He is currently working to complete a Master's Degree in Public Administration at California State East Bay and is a member of the Public Administration Honor Society.

Jason is known for his high level of enthusiasm, taxpayer advocacy, and commitment to high levels of customer service. These attributes are a good fit with Oro Loma whose mission is to "Provide the Best Possible Service at the Lowest Possible Cost."

Jason lives in Pleasanton with his wife and three daughters.

## Recycling Theft Costs You Plenty

California has recently seen a disturbing increase in theft from recycling carts by thieves who take what they want and often dump the rest on the ground, or even take everything, including the cart.

Residents often don't realize how much these thieves cost them.

The over 400 carts reported presumed stolen throughout the District in 2007 had to be replaced at a cost of over \$19,000, an expense which District customers support through their recycling fees.

In addition, Oro Loma is legally obligated to provide a recycling program for its residents. Waste Management is under contract with the District to supply this service. That contract assumes a certain revenue from the recycled material collected. When material is stolen, that revenue cannot be met, and fees for the garbage and recycling program may go up.

There are several things you can do to discourage this kind of rustling, and several things you should not do. First of all, what you should **not** do:

1. **Never directly confront the thief.** Some thieves expect to make several hundred dollars a night and are brazen enough to trespass onto private property to commit their crime. Don't do anything to jeopardize your safety.

2. **Don't ignore the problem.** With your help and cooperation, this type of theft can be reduced.

### What You Can Do

1. Put your recycling carts out by 6 a.m. the morning of pick-up, not the night before.
2. Talk to your neighbors, homeowner association, or apartment manager about doing the same thing.
3. Write your address on your recycling carts in permanent marker.
4. Report trespassing to your local law enforcement department.





# Oro Loma Earth Day 2008 Poster Contest Awards Ceremony

An all-time record of 3,700 students from 35 schools submitted entries in the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2008 Poster Contest, which was open to all students attending grades K-12 in the District. Students were asked to create posters based on the theme, "Your World—Your Choice."

Contest prizes were increased in 2008 to \$700 for First Place, \$500 for Second Place, \$300 for Third Place, and \$150 Honorable Mention (two in each grade group category).

Students found out they were cash winners on Earth Day, April 22, but it wasn't until a festive awards ceremony that they found out which prize they had won. The ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 27, in the Titan Auditorium of the Marina Community Center in San Leandro.

Prizes totaling \$12,700 were awarded to students and an equal \$12,700 given to the students' schools. Schools that submitted eligible posters but had no winners received \$100 Participation Awards for a total of \$1,900. In all, \$27,300 was awarded to students and schools in the Oro Loma Sanitary District. Arroyo High School (\$1,750) and Chinese Christian Schools (\$950) were the top prize-winning schools. Assumption School, Del Rey Elementary School, East Bay Arts, Hillside Elementary School, Kipp King Collegiate High School, and Strobridge Elementary School tied for third place at \$700 each.

In addition to those students winning cash prizes, 15 students in each grade group received Certificates of Merit for their excellent work in showing how individual choices affect the environment.

A complete list of cash winners and Certificate of Merit recipients, including their teachers and schools, is posted on [www.oroloma.org](http://www.oroloma.org).



## 2008 Poster Contest Winners

Grade	Prize	Student
K-1	1st	Sun Hwa Schlaepfer
	2nd	Luis Molina
	3rd	Corinne Deturk
	HM	Elias Sosa
	HM	Michaela Castillo
2-3	1st	Christian Mitchell
	2nd	Alexa Lumanlan
	3rd	Karrin Huang
	HM	Madilyn Morrow
	HM	Christina Chan
4-5	1st	Melissa Szeto
	2nd	Colleen Fung
	3rd	Lily Huang
	HM	Alicia Arrizon
	HM	Ethan Pak
6-8	1st	Elena Aker
	2nd	Maiyi Huang
	3rd	Amy Sit
	HM	Jonathan Fan
	HM	Pamela Szeto
9-10	1st	Beatrice Seifert
	2nd	Becky Mar
	3rd	Allison Anilao
	HM	Won Choi
	HM	Won Choi
11-12	1st	Rachel Law
	2nd	Joshua Wildman
	3rd	Alexandria Garcia
	HM	Benfie Liu
	HM	Gabrielle Wee



*Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2008 Poster Contest winners.*

*Students didn't learn what prize they had won until the awards ceremony.*



*Joshua Wildman won second place in the 11-12 grade category in the 2008 contest. In 2000, Joshua won second place in the 4-6 grade category.*

*The awards celebration included a pasta buffet.*



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**Oro Loma Board  
Votes for a  
Residential Sewer  
Rate Reduction!**

## New Law Makes It Illegal to Dispose of Medical Sharps in the Trash

As of September 1, 2008, it will be illegal to dispose of medical sharps in the trash.

Home-generated needles and other medical sharps that are thrown into household waste or flushed down the toilet present a great risk to sanitation and sewage treatment workers. Used needles, syringes, and lancets can injure people and spread diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and syphilis. Since all used needles and syringes may carry disease, anyone incurring a needle stick injury must undergo expensive medical testing and treatment in addition to worrying about his/her health.

Alameda County residents can dispose of their own medical sharps waste for free at any of Alameda County's Household Hazardous Waste facilities. Proof of Alameda County residency is required and only home-generated sharps in approved containers will be accepted.

Approved sharps containers are available from medical providers and most chain pharmacies and drugstores, as well as some discount warehouse stores. Follow instructions for filling and sealing, and then bring the container to a Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Keep the container separate from any other waste and let the greeter know you have sharps with you when you arrive.

For further information and a schedule, visit [www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org), call 510-670-6460, or email [HHWS sharps@acgov.org](mailto:HHWS sharps@acgov.org).

To find out more about your options for the proper disposal of medical sharps, visit the EPA Web site at [www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical/disposal.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical/disposal.htm) or contact the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at (800) 643-1643 or [www.safeneedledisposal.org](http://www.safeneedledisposal.org)



## Garbage Rate Increase

The District's agreement with Waste Management of Alameda County provides for annual garbage rate adjustments for customers, based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), including a CPI adjustment of the Altamont fees imposed by Alameda County. This year, the new rates also reflect an increase in Measure D fees, mandated by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority. Residential recycling and green waste fees will remain unchanged. The rates for the City of San Leandro are higher due to the additional franchise fee imposed on Waste Management by the City. A public hearing on the rate increase will be held on September 2, 2008 at 3:00 pm at the District offices, 2655 Grant Avenue, San Lorenzo, CA.

### New draft garbage rates are as follows:

#### Residential Unincorporated Alameda County and the portion of Hayward serviced by Oro Loma

	2007-2008 rate	2008-2009 rate	Increase
20-Gallon	\$ 5.70	\$ 5.88	\$0.18/month
32-Gallon	\$11.40	\$11.75	\$0.35/month
64-Gallon	\$22.81	\$23.52	\$0.71/month
96-Gallon	\$34.21	\$35.27	\$1.06/month

#### Residential portion the City of San Leandro serviced by Oro Loma

	2007-2008 rate	2008-2009 rate	Increase
20-Gallon	\$ 6.48	\$ 6.68	\$0.20/month
32-Gallon	\$12.97	\$13.38	\$0.41/month
64-Gallon	\$25.94	\$26.75	\$0.81/month
96-Gallon	\$38.91	\$40.13	\$1.22/month

#### Commercial and industrial customers (garbage and recycling):

Unincorporated Alameda County and the portion of Hayward serviced by Oro Loma increased by 3.10%

The portion of City of San Leandro serviced by Oro Loma increased by 3.14%

A complete list of rates is available at [www.oraloma.org](http://www.oraloma.org).